

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Eubria palustris Germar (Coleoptera: Psephenidae) in Wales.—Between 15.vi and 13.vii.1988, five specimens of *E. palustris* were found in pitfall traps set out at Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve, Anglesey. This work was carried out as part of the Nature Conservancy Council's Welsh Peatland Invertebrate Survey.

This would appear to be the first occasion upon which this beetle has been found in Wales. There are records from nine other vice counties in Britain, but of these only two, Dorset and North Hampshire, relate to recent records. There appear to be two major loci of records; firstly from seepages on soft rock coastal cliffs and secondly from wetlands inland. The Cors Erddreiniog records are clearly referable to the second type. The habitat was a wet field, flushed with groundwater from springs derived from underlying carboniferous limestone strata. The characteristic of these waters is that whilst being very rich in calcium, they are poor in other major plant nutrients. This gives rise to a fascinating mixture of calcicole and calcifuge plants, with grass of parnassus, fly orchid, black bog rush and blunt-flowered rush being intimately mixed with *Sphagnum* mosses, heather *Calluna vulgaris* (L.), cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* L. and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* (L.) amongst others. It seems likely that shallow runnels are a key requirement for one or more of the early stages of the beetle's life history.

Our thanks are due to Professor John Owen for confirming our identification and to Mark Parsons for much useful information on the distribution of the beetle.—D. C. Boyce, P. R. Holmes & D. K. Reed, Nature Conservancy Council, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3EE.

Epuraea distincta (Grimmer) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in Devon.—Beetles of this species were plentiful on a soft fungus growing on the trunk of a *Salix* sp. bush growing along a stream at the edge of an area of ash/sycamore woodland near St. Catherine's Tor (SS 229239) in North Devon, 2.iv.1989. This is a rare species nationally and, so far as I am aware, has not previously been reported from Devon. It is interesting to note that Roger Key (pers. comm.) in the same year took this species in the Chipman Valley on the north Cornwall coast, essentially a similar site.—Keith N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

Aderus populneus (Creutzer) (Coleoptera: Aderidae) and other deadwood beetles from Stowe Park, Buckinghamshire.—A biological survey of the recently acquired National Trust land at Stowe Park (SP 675370) on 28.viii.1990 revealed a rich and varied deadwood fauna. The rarest beetle found was *Aderus populneus*, a species not to my knowledge found in the county previously. A single specimen was beaten from an old ash tree in the Oxford Avenue. Also of particular interest were: *Dorcatoma flavicornis* (F.), found in a fallen oak bough in Oxford Avenue, together with *Bitoma crenata* (F.) and *Scolytus intricatus* (Ratz.); and *Xyleborus dryographus* (Ratz.), under bark on a fallen beech to the south of the lakes, together with *Dacne bipustulata* (Thunb.). Other beetles found amongst dead and decaying timber within the parkland included *Litargus connexus* (Fourc.), *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.), *Ctesias serra* (F.), and *Cryptolestes ferrugineus* (Steph.). Simon Grove also found an elytron of an *Ischnomera* sp. in dead wood, presumably *I. cyanea* (F.).